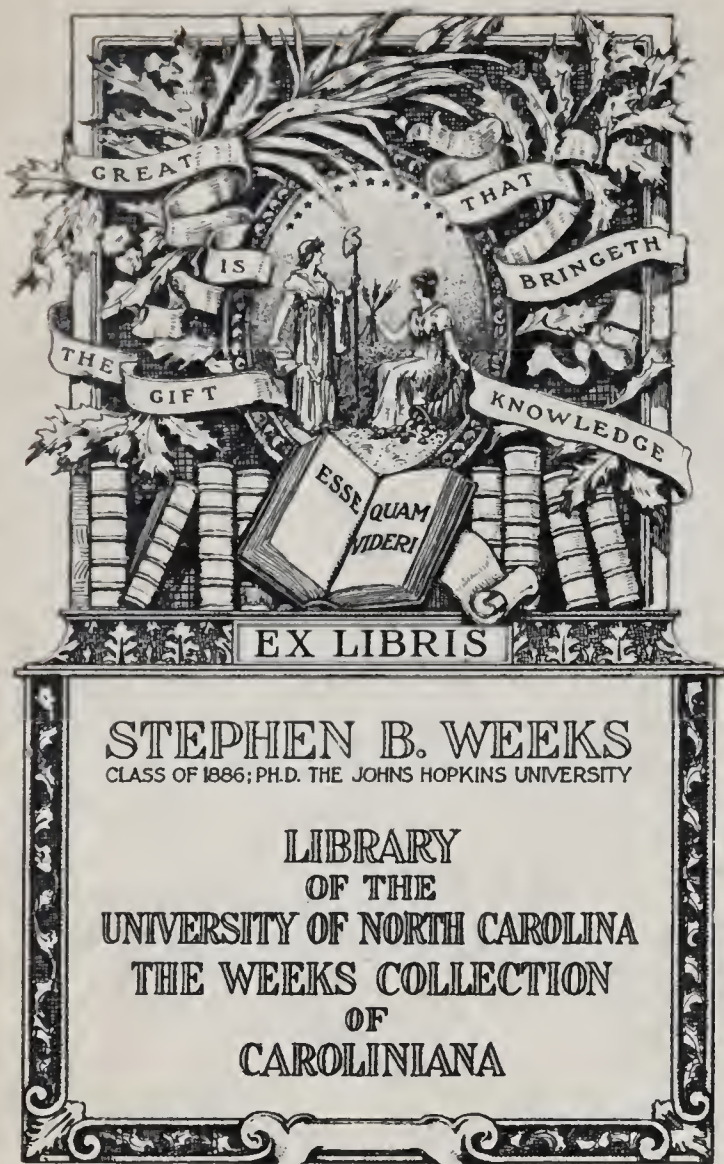


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Stonewall Jackson
Training School

1909



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Cp 364 -
S 88

THE STONEWALL JACKSON

Manual Training and Industrial School.

A FRANK AND FULL ACCOUNT
OF THE BOARD'S STEWARD-
SHIP IS HEREIN MADE; ALSO
STATEMENT SHOWING PLANS,
CONDITIONS AND PURPOSES.

State Superintendent Joyner, in speaking to the bill before the Joint Educational Committee, which gave a unanimous "favorable" report, said:

It is eminently proper that this bill should have been referred to the committees on education. This school should be considered from the first as a part of the educational system, necessary for its completion and supplying a need that no other part of the system can supply. There is and always will be a number of children among us, and among all people, for whom there is written above the door of the home, "No hope"; above the door of the schoolhouse, "No hope"; and even above the door of the temple of justice itself, "No hope." In the name of civilization and Christianity we ought to provide somewhere for this class of children *one institution* above whose door there shall be written in letters of living light, "Hope," for the most hopeless child, where he may have a chance to develop the spark of divinity that is hidden in the heart of every child and be saved from the everlasting doom of criminality to the glorious privilege of good citizenship.

THE Stonewall Jackson Training School.

[From Raleigh News and Observer, February 10, 1909.]

To the Editor: You have asked me for an article for publication in **The News and Observer**, on the Reformatory, as the public is pleased to term it. I appreciate this opportunity of giving to the public, in general, and to the members of the General Assembly, in particular, an account of the board's stewardship.

Its Beginning.

The General Assembly of 1907, after a full and thorough discussion of the question, the needs for such an institution being presented by the King's Daughters, by ministers of the Gospel and by various educational and charity workers, chartered the Stonewall Jackson Manual Training and Industrial school for wayward and unfortunate white boys. North Carolina has always been cautious and conservative, and perhaps for this reason, more than any other, the State is among the very last of the Union to provide for this phase of education among its children. But our State has one virtue that no other State possesses to a greater degree: Being once convinced of her duty, she does it earnestly and faithfully.

An appropriation of ten thousand dollars was made for the beginning of the work, and the responsibility of inaugurating this new educational undertaking in the State was placed in the hands of fifteen people, four named in the charter and eleven by the Governor upon nominations and suggestions by the charter members. The Board of Trustees follows:

Mrs. Stonewall Jackson, Charlotte.
Mrs. I. W. Faison, Charlotte.
Miss Easdale Shaw, Rockingham.
Mrs. W. H. S. Burgyn, Weldon.
Mrs. D. Y. Coeper, Henderson.
Mrs. W. N. Reynolds, Winston.
Mrs. A. L. Coble, Statesville.

Mrs. G. P. Erwin, Morganton.
Mr. Caesar Cone, Greensboro.
Prof. J. J. Blair, Wilmington.
Dr. H. A. Royster, Raleigh.
Mr. J. H. Tucker, Asheville.
Mr. R. O. Everitt, Durham.
Mr. D. B. Coltrane, Concord.
Mr. J. P. Cook, Concord.

Organization and Location.

Governor Glenn called a meeting of the trustees at Raleigh in September, 1907. The temporary organization, which at a later meeting in Greensboro became a permanent one, is as follows:

J. P. Cook, chairman.
J. H. Tucker, vice-chairman.
H. A. Royster, M. D., secretary.
Caesar Cone, treasurer.

Later when the institution was located, for convenience and the more satisfactory conduct of the affairs, Mr. Cone, suggesting that the treasurer should live at the site, resigned and to succeed him as treasurer, the board unanimously elected Mr. D. B. Coltrane.

The board advertised for proposals for sites of not less than 200 acres. A large number of offers were made, but each of them asked for cash a little less than the State's appropriation. The board unanimously agreed and determined that the site must be a donation and one healthfully located and where the usual crops of the State may be successfully and profitably raised.

Whatever my future connection with the institution may be, or wherever my lot may be cast, one of the happiest and sweetest experiences of my life will always be the treatment of my neighbors, the great good people of the good town of Concord. Their response then and since to my appeals for aid in making a home for this

important educational institution was unselfish and magnificent. By this generous act of a generous people, without personal reward or the hope of a reward, except in the sweet consciousness of doing a noble deed, the State became the possessor of nearly three hundred (300) acres of land; property, valued upon the basis of surrounding sales, worth more than \$10,000. It is situated on the Southern Railway and two miles south of Concord. Its elevation is 780 feet above sea level. The building site is ideal and overlooks a territory the radius of which is 17 miles. On the place is a splendid rock quarry, from which the railway in the past has secured an enormous amount of ballast. The place has running streams, good pastures and has many large level fields, which under kind treatment and intelligent tilling will prove invaluable in the conduct of the school.

On the place are four small houses, such as you might expect on an old fashioned cotton farm. Our Superintendent, burying pride, but showing his love for the work and his appreciation of the appealing calls from anxious mothers, is living in one of these cabins. He deserves and needs a better home, and the faith he displays in the goodness of his beloved State, for which he and his board are spending themselves, surely will be as bread cast upon the waters.

System of Cottages.

Though North Carolina has many a criminal and a life of use and profit in consequence lost to the State, because such an institution has not been in existence in the past, we have one decided advantage in this delay. The work has passed beyond the experimental stage. We know, by the experiments and heavy costs of other states, what now is the best system. Years ago, the idea was to hurdle the entire crowd into one building, surrounded by high walls. That is but a prison, and the fact staring each boy in his face defeated the very purposes intended.

Where funds were available, all such

have been discarded; and the dormitory or single building idea has given way to what, for the lack of a better name, is designated as the "Cottage System." Having adopted this system because it is the best, it is pleasing also that it proves itself to us as the most practical from a financial standpoint. Here and there we shall find a man, a woman, an organization, to whom the cost of one cottage is not beyond a simple generosity or a purse; and on this account we are not asking the State for any additional cottages. These we propose to add as the individual donor may be found. The cottage system has an additional good point, which permit me to speak of right here. With the pittance we had to start on and being confronted by a panic, that touched the liberal giver the hardest, we were enabled by begging, by praying, by getting folks to take off profits on material and all official hands working for glory and love, to have two cottages ready by this time worth, complete and furnished, twenty thousand dollars. This is a stewardship that, running no risk of being declared vain, the board can and does feel proud of. The members of the board associated with me have given their best thought and help. They have attended meetings, bearing their own expense in railroad fare and hotel bills, and on occasions when it meant a sacrifice to individual business and in personal comfort. Not one cent has any member of the board received for services, though a number of them have made gifts personally and inspired others to make donations.

Details All Worked Out.

Every detail of what shall be eventually a magnificent, humane and educational institution has been worked out. The location of every building has been fixed. We know where the barn and milk-house, to be built by the boys when they are working, shall be located. We know where the wood-working shop shall be placed when an interested friend says the word to commence. We know where the little chapel shall be built, in which every

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denomination known to Christianity shall in rotation hold service, when time will permit laying the question of cost per capita before the official heads of the several denominations in North Carolina. We know where the drill grounds shall be as soon as our own boys may find time to make their imitation guns of wood, for the government of the institution will be military. We know where the little pavilion shall be built for weekly concerts (music hath charms) when we find the man to donate us instruments. We know where the other eight cottages are to be built (two now complete) as soon as we can find five benevolent folks or charitable organizations to furnish the funds, and the boys can find time from their studies to assist in erection. Three of the remaining eight are provided for. One of them the King's Daughters are raising funds for; another will be provided for by a source we are not at liberty at this time to make known; and the third we have reason to know that the several county superintendents of the State will provide for to be known as cottage, name to be selected at the next annual meeting. We know where the pastures shall be (already made) when funds available for the purchase of cattle can be had. We know where the corn and cotton fields and garden spots shall be when spring comes on. We know where the little hosiery mill shall be located, when funds for the building can be secured, for a friend has been found to furnish the machines. We know where our crushed rock for building purposes and for domestic sale shall come from, when a gentleman of Raleigh tells us that we may have a good rock crusher standing just one half mile distant from our property. We know where a splendid driven well, a tower and a tank shall be, because they are already in existence, made possible by the unsolicited donation of that brave soldier, polite gentleman and correct man, Gen. R. F. Hoke and his son Van Wych, a chip off the "old block,"

which to him seems and is the highest compliment he needs. We know last but not least where one of the most important buildings shall be located. But we defer, for another place, fuller facts.

What is a Cottage?

We have two of the ten cottages complete. Each accommodate 30 boys and the officer and his wife, who is matron. The cottage is built of brick, three stories high with a large, well lighted attic. It is covered with slate. No more substantial buildings and pleasing to the eye, without expensive ruffles and frills, can be found in the State. They are 52x52 feet. The first floor is divided up into storage rooms, recreation room, toilet rooms (plumbing and sewerage already installed) shower baths, personal wardrobes, etc. Leading from this to second floor is an iron stairway enclosed in brick, and it appears and is a part of the building. The second floor, fronted by an attractive porch, contains kitchen, dining-room, assembly room, officer's room, small hall and stairway for use of officer and matron exclusively. The same iron stair continues to third floor, where there is a sleeping room containing 30 white enameled iron bedsteads. This room has 12 large windows and transoms and is open on three sides to the outside world.

This floor also contains three small rooms for the exclusive use of the officer. The attic may be used for storage purposes and at times may be needed to hold some necessary private conference with certain of the pupils when occasion demands.

All of the ten cottages to be built will be exactly alike, inside and out.

The Government and Daily Program.

As previously said the government is military. Each cottage contains in reality a family; in government, a military company. One half of these boys attend school one half day and work the other half. The boy that makes the best record in study, in application to duty, in demeanor and in the care and keep of his person, becomes

captain. The one standing second in grade becomes lieutenant. The officer in charge of the cottage enjoys in the government of the institution the title of Colonel. Superintendent Walter Thompson, large in frame, strong and bright in intellect, big-hearted but firm, earnest and loyal in his work, the equal of any young educator in the State, the friend of the bright, bad boy, and whose selection I regard as reflecting the wisdom of the board and whose acceptance I especially regard as the reflection of a Christian, a noble man and a patriot, is the general. There are no stripes, no chains, no real guns. Every pupil, officer, teacher and employe wears a uniform made of the same goods; at work time all wear overalls made of the same goods.

Some will try to escape, but they will come back for the system is so perfect. It may be of interest to your readers to look into the life of a cottage just at sun down. Twenty-eight boys are seated at tables eating wholesome, yet plain food. They have clean faces and hands. Hair neatly brushed. Two boys delegated for the week to assist the matron in cooking, etc., are waiting on the tables. Supper is finished. In the assembly hall, some are playing innocent games, some reading good books (hundreds of which loving Christian friends of the State have already sent in), at 9 o'clock all retire to first floor. They undress, hanging up their clothes in individual wardrobes. They don night-shirts and, putting on house slippers, march up two flights of stairs. The doors close behind. Each boy has a bed. The window sash rises only 5 inches at bottom—it comes down at top only 5 inches. The transoms elevated 12 feet, open entirely if weather demands. It is 35 feet to the ground. To keep intruders away or guard against fire there is of course a night watchman on constant duty. It is hardly probable that any boy, in his night shirt alone, would become so home sick during night and leap down

35 feet into the night and go away before breakfast time!

The arrangements for the care, keep, instruction and control during the day are equally as satisfactory. Some boys may get away—just for awhile; but they'll come back. There is nothing else possible, under our arrangements.

Is There a Demand?

I would, to argue this point, insult the ladies, who appeared before the General Assembly of 1907, and the Assembly itself. Eliminate that knowledge entirely, and I am almost appalled at the inquiries and applications coming to me daily. During the past week, here in Raleigh, four splendid widows have beseeched me to take their boys back home, with me. Boys twelve years old and beyond the control of teachers and mothers! What are you going to do with them? I have nearly 200 applications. The first pupil we received is less than 12 years old. He violated the dignity of the law. Turn him loose means a license for his doing worse. Convict him and imprison him with hardened criminals, without hope, you crush his life; you destroy him. So far as saving him to the State or so far as his soul is concerned, it might be cheaper and the shortest route to give him a ticket to everlasting perdition.

Every man and woman in the State of North Carolina knows of a boy or two in every town in the State who though young, has gotten beyond control of parent and teacher—has become a law unto himself. Unless he is protected from himself beyond that most critical age of a boy—12 to 17—there is a strong probability of a criminal being turned out.

The Plain Condition.

We have room now for sixty. We can have in the early summer or fall accommodations for sixty more. Were section 12 of chapter 509 of the laws of 1907 invoked, but discre-

tionary with the Governor, our capacity would soon be filled. We trust he will not invoke it at this time, for in a very short time (1) it can be filled from the courts now holding; and (2) we have now no funds, the cost of keep, care and teaching falling upon a friend of the cause whose name it is unnecessary to mention in this connection.

What We Need.

We need from the State funds for the erection of an administration building. This building if erected by any other State institution would cost \$40,000 or more. We ask and need just \$20,000. In this building we have offices, home for superintendent, home for lady teachers, four school rooms, space for central heating plant and for the installation of industrial features, such as type-setting and printing, tailoring, shoe-making, etc., etc. The boys make the brick on the ground; the boys, under the direction of a competent mason, make the mortar and lay the brick; they do the wood work and the plastering. In this way they are taught and become producers.

We need \$15,000 for the first year's support and maintenance and \$20,000 annually thereafter for support. It will require nearly as much assistance, teaching, etc., etc., for the sixty this year, as 200 later on. We need to buy clothing, food, equipment, stock, machinery, tools, supplies and a thousand and one things during the first year. And until we get our fields in shape it would be useless to hope for much assistance from the farm, to which, so far as the manual work this year is concerned, the boys will be directed. I am reasonably certain that even by the time we reach our ultimate capacity (300) the cost of keep will not go beyond \$20,000 annually. By that time we shall have our orchards, berry patches, fields and industrial features so well installed that they will contribute largely to the support.

The School in Class of Its Own.

No other institution in the State gives free absolutely all that goes to one's keep in school. No other institution has much concern about the real physical detention of their pupils—yet the small amount we feel certain we need does not approach per capital 50 per cent of what is asked and given to other institutions. I have been criticised for making a modest request, but I am speaking for the board as well as myself when I say that we do not desire a single dollar that we cannot spend judiciously and in a way that will best carry out the spirit of our institution. We have a property worth more than \$30,000 upon an appropriation of only \$10,000. Knowing the temper of my board, the spirit and the enthusiasm of interested friends in the State and out, I am safe in declaring that, when we again give an account of our stewardship, it will be two dollars for every one the State contributes. This is the low view, however; for value of a useful life to the State or the condition of a soul hereafter is not to be figured on these lines.

The Stonewall Jackson Training School, Mr. Editor, is the response to the demand of humanity. It occupies an important sphere in the activities of the State. It believes all boys under 16 years of age deserve a chance, other than that in the environment of a criminal. It believes that no boy, violating law and order, should be turned loose because of his youth; neither does it believe that a great State, directed by such a high class citizenship, should imprison that boy with hardened and diseased criminals who have no hope. It believes that hundreds of mothers and fathers, distressed over the condition of an incorrigible boy, should have some means of relief other than a prison life for their sons. The spirit that made the Jackson Training School take shape and come into existence believes that it is cheaper and better

to control and train a wild, nervous boy than to later on arrest, try, convict and punish a criminal. And this does not touch that higher and nobler plane which leads us to believe that possibly a useful life and an immortal soul may be saved.

It Has Friends.

It is pleasing, because it convinces us of the wisdom of our efforts to have the unanimous and earnest endorsement of the State Association of County Superintendents and that of the City Superintendents; and it is of peculiar pleasure to feel that the Stonewall Jackson Training School and what it stands for has the strong support of that able educational leader, Superintendent J. Y. Joyner, who volunteers his personal and official approval and help.

As far as we know the future by present conditions and by the knowledge of the past, it is a certainty that every educational organization; the orphanages of the State, every minister and all the charitable organizations and humane societies of North Carolina will applaud a generous and kind support from the General Assembly of 1909.

The Board of Trustees have done their best. It can plan and act in furthering the future of this important educational interest only as the General Assembly gives it support—the measure of the institution's future is the measure by which the Legislature deals with it. If they deny support—that, paralyzing the cause, ends the chapter. If they will otherwise, it has in advance the pledge of the Board of Trustees of a faithful service in so far as it has light to do.

I thank **The News and Observer** for this opportunity to speak of our institution through your influential and widely read journal.

JAS. P. COOK, Chairman,
Board Trustees Stonewall Jackson
Manual Training and Industrial
School.

SAVE THE ERRING BOYS.

Elsewhere is printed in today's paper a full and illuminating statement about the Stonewall Jackson Training School at Concord. It has been prepared by Mr. J. P. Cook, chairman of the board of trustees by request of the editor of this paper. It is to be hoped that it will be read carefully by every subscriber and his wife, for it is an interesting account of a noble work which has been upon the hearts of some of the best men and best women in North Carolina. It is no institution founded to give somebody a place or do something for somebody who wanted something for himself. It is an institution born in the hearts of the King's Daughters—a band of women who have worthily won the highest name that can be bestowed upon women. They have wrought well, aided by men as unselfish and patriotic as the State has known in its long history, and the story of what they have done told in today's paper is one that will win the approval of all good people and touch the hearts of many.

The best hope of the State is in its boys. It is spending much money to educate them, and properly so. These good men and these good women who established the Stonewall Jackson Training School wish to reach out their hands and save the erring boys. There are many boys—(many more, according to Mr. Cook's statement, than we had supposed)—who need the training and drill which this Reformatory will give. It should be made a place for work and self-care, in so far as possible. Mr. Walter Thompson, the superintendent, is a sterling man of worth and capacity—the right man in the right place. The directors have paid their own expenses and given of their time and money, and deserve the thanks and gratitude of all good men and women. Mr. Cook, the chairman, has spent his money freely—and he is a poor man—to start the institution. The Legislature will no doubt recognize the im-

portance of the work that can be done and grant the moderate request of the board.—*Editorial in Raleigh News and Observer, Feb. 10, 1909.*

THE MANUAL TRAINING SCHOOL.

We hope the State is duly impressed with the fact that the two first buildings of the Stonewall Jackson Manual Training School at Concord have been completed and will be open for sixty boys to-morrow. The Legislature gave for this new institution only \$10,000. Three hundred acres of splendid land, worth another \$10,000, were donated, chiefly by the people of Concord. The lowest bid for the erection of the two buildings exclusive of plumbing and heating that could be gotten from any responsible bidder was \$16,000, and the trustees and superintendent did their own building. They touched the benevolent heart, here and there, and have, in addition to the land and buildings, a lot of fine farming tools, good stock, a well and waterworks, and have little debt. Several ladies of Concord, individually and through their clubs, have furnished the heavy articles for the first cottage, such as range and tables; but everything else needed for the furnishing of a home is lacking. To-day is the date fixed for a shower of household furnishings, to be held in one of the new buildings, which will thus have its inaugural.

Prof. J. P. Cook, chairman of the Board of Trustees, together with the board as a body and Superintendent Walter Thompson, have accomplished wonderful results with the funds in hand and are worthy of all applause. It is a great humanitarian institution they have established, and one which will

confer life-long benefit upon wayward and unfortunate boys. The people of the State, especially the ladies, will, without doubt, aid them in the work they have undertaken, and the Legislature will, we are sure, be good to them and helpful of the cause in which they are engaged.—*Editorial in Charlotte Observer, January 11, 1909.*

....., N. C., Jan. 9, 1909.

DEAR SIR:—There is in my home a nephew of mine between twelve and thirteen years of age whose parents are dead.

My father and mother have had him three years, and during that time have exerted every influence for his betterment, but to no avail.

He will leave home in the morning pretending to go to school, return to dinner, and we see no more of him until an officer finds him and brings him home by request, two or three days later.

His youthfulness and the respect of the people in the town for my father, who is a Confederate veteran 77 years old, are the only things that have kept him from being classed as a criminal.

Will you please tell me if your institution takes such boys; if so, what are the requirements? We have done all for him that can be done by persuasion, mentally and physically, and if you can offer us any hope in this case it will be greatly appreciated.

Wishing you the best of success in training the wayward boys in our State. I am,

Very respectfully,

(Mrs.)

[For obvious reasons, the town and writer's name are omitted. This is a sample of nearly two hundred letters received.]

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